



Carindale Writers' Group Meeting

25 March 2010

Start 9:30

Present: Jeff, Karen, Dorothy, Marjory, Judy, Brian, Wendy, Debby, Michael, Shirley, Dawn, Rebecca, Don, and Lydia

Apologies: Bev, Leslee-Anne, Len, Rolando, Hilary, Gary, Richard, Chip and Naomi

Chaired by: Dorothy Vicary

This week's meeting centred on our guest speaker. After we quickly introduced ourselves the talk began.

1. Guest Speaker: Annette Henderson author of WILD SPIRIT

Annette detailed the experiences she encountered when her and her husband Win decided to travel through Africa in the 1970s.

Various events lead up to their eventual positioning in a remote camp in Gabon where they spent a remarkable 13 months helping establish a makeshift town for a multinational concern that was conducting exploratory/viability research in the area. During this time they came into contact with a side to life many of us rarely have the chance to experience. Annette was confronted with many challenges and memorable encounters, the highlight of which being a month long stint as a surrogate parent for an infant gorilla.

These events impacted Annette's life immensely and she maintained journals of the entire trip. These journals along with various other documents assisted her when she wrote the first draft of her book about the experiences in Africa in 1977 and follow up edits over the years.

After the amazing experiences Annette had with giant apes she became determined to focus her life around them and their preservation. Once again many things occurred that kept her from her dream of returning but she did complete a degree in anthropology and commenced teaching.

After teaching for about 20 years a colleague in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History at UQ encouraged her to pick up her manuscript and work on it again. She applied for a

scholarship and entry into a Master of Philosophy - creative writing, obtained both and finally completed her memoir in 2008 with the help of her fellow students, the Queensland Writers Centre and various other aids.

Following an interview with Richard Fidler, Annette's dream of having her work published began to fall into place. The wheels were set in motion, she obtained an agent (Lyn Tranter – Australian Literary Management) and was published by Random House in Australia and NZ.

Annette now lives on acreage outside of Brisbane, has several writing projects planned and is vigorously promoting Wild Spirit around the country.

Her message was: “Be persistent, if I can publish a book in 2009 that I first wrote in 1977, anyone can do it – stick to your dream”.

Many thanks to Annette for her insights into the world of writing and publishing and also for sharing her wonderful experiences with us.

Annette's talk generated much discussion that took us through our delicious morning tea and beyond.

2. Following the Feature reader we moved onto hear short stories presented by:

- a. Rebecca read a beautifully worded and moving tribute to her recently deceased aunt Louise. Thank you for sharing this with us.
- b. Marjory read her short story entitled “The sun is shining” which provided a lovely detail of the land and what it gives to us. Thank you.
- c. Dorothy read her short story about a dominating husband and his downtrodden wife, which summed up the futile predicament some people find themselves in throughout life. Thank you
- d. Michael read an excerpt from his novel “The Sawdust Apprentice” and once again impressed us with his gentle and moving use of language. Thank you

3. Final business

Rebecca presented a book entitled “Critical Response Process” and mentioned her experience in teaching from it and other resources on the topic of giving and using critical review. We agreed it would make an interesting topic for a guest talk and Dorothy agreed to sort out a suitable date/time with Bev for Rebecca's presentation.

4. Writing topic for next meeting

It was agreed that short stories should be kept to 500 words in the future.

The next topic is: Write a vignette of a place in such a way that you put your reader in that place.

This can be in the form of a location description or travelogue or whatever your creative mind tells you is suitable – Have fun!

Chip's Computer Tips

Timing Is Everything, so

Fix the Windows Clock

Windows 7 may be the best Windows yet, but it suffers from the same annoying problem that plagued Vista and even XP: Its clock doesn't keep good time. On occasion it has come up with the wrong dateline and date, like when reinstalling or repairing or updating.

That's because the remote default time server Windows uses to fetch the current time, often doesn't do so. I don't know if this is because of server overload or what (obviously there are a *lot* of Windows systems out there, all looking for a clock fix), but I'm tired of getting the same cryptic error when I try to synchronise manually.

Ah, but there's a fix. If you're trying to get your system to keep better time, try this:

1. Right-click the taskbar clock and choose *Adjust date/time*.
2. Click the *Internet time* tab, then the *Change settings* button. (Win7 and XP are almost the same.) In Windows XP, right click on the *Date/Time*, *Adjust Date/Time*.)
3. Erase what's in the *Server* field and replace it with: *pool.ntp.org* (This choice is given to you in the drop-down window.)
4. Click *Update now*. In a few seconds, Windows' clock should get synchronized.
5. Click *OK*, then *OK* again, and you're done.

You will then have an accurate time recorded when you send and received email messages and an accurate time of your Internet usage. There's also a great freebee for accurate time. It's called RocketTime. Once installed, it will get you Greenwich Mean Time +10 hours for Brisbane Australia every time you boot your computer.